

## The League of Lost Causes

Being the Romantic Adventures of  
By H. M. EGBERT  
Paul Lane, American Millionaire

### A Dutch Music Lesson

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HAVE been expecting you for some days, Mr. Lane," said Lord Claude Tresham, when the young American stood before him in the library of his mansion on Park lane, London. "I learned some time ago that you had ceased to be associated with the League. Sit down and tell me precisely why."

Paul Lane answered with some vehemence: "I was, as you probably know, induced to place my services and my fortune at the League's disposal by Her Highness Princess Clothilde," he began. "I say 'service and fortune,' although I believe that only the latter was required by the minds at the back of the organization. At first I was unaware of this. I strove with enthusiasm into the cause."

"That enthusiasm of you Americans will yet be the cause of your country's downfall," answered Lord Claude. "But please pardon the interruption. You found things different from what you had been led to expect?"

"Yes. I had been told that the League was an international association for promoting the principles of monarchy. I found it to be an anarchistic body, controlled by men of whose identity I was never informed. I worked in the dark, and they spent my money—some three millions of dollars—also in the dark. Finally, when the princess proposed that I should organize a conspiracy against my own country, which would have led to the absorption of all the Pacific coast states by a hostile power, I severed my connection. And so—"

"You have come to me to offer to place your services and your knowledge of affairs at the disposal of the counter-organization?" said Lord Claude. "I think you have acted wisely, Mr. Lane. The League is nothing but a criminal society, led by some of the younger and least influential of Europe's rulers. Under the cloak of devotion to monarchy—and no one believes more in that principle than I, for I am secretary of what is called, I believe, the Black Cabinet of Rulers—as I was saying, Mr. Lane, under this pretense the League has united all the criminal and anarchistic elements in Europe against the established order of society. I welcome you and trust that we shall deal with you more frankly than your late friends did."

Lord Claude dismissed Paul Lane cordially soon after, promising to call upon him as soon as the need for his services developed.

The summons from Lord Claude came more speedily than either man had anticipated. When, a few mornings after, Paul went to the secretary's house by invitation, he found him pacing the floor of his study in what in any other man would have been marked agitation. In Lord Claude, however, this mood evinced itself only by a sharper manner of speech than his habitual drawl and certain nervous movements of the hands.

"I am glad you have come so promptly, Mr. Lane," said Lord Claude. "I want you to go upon a mission of the utmost delicacy. I have not forgotten how you outwitted me in the matter of the Kaiser's visit to Paris, when you were with our enemies, and if any man can clear up this situation, I know you can."

He handed Paul a cigarette, lit it, and resumed: "Trouble is brewing in Holland—very serious trouble. Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina, as you doubtless are aware, when she ascended the throne at the age of eighteen, became fascinated by the ideals of the League, and for a time assisted in its councils. Later, when her eyes had been opened to the true nature of this body, she withdrew from all participation in its schemes, thereby incurring the deadly hostility of the society. You are aware, of course, that her majesty visited Berlin on the fifth, in order to discuss with the Kaiser the proposed fortification of Flushing, a measure which he has inspired, and which gives cause for considerable anxiety to England.

"Certain patriots of Holland, considering that the queen, in visiting Berlin, has betrayed her country, are planning a counter-measure, aided, of course by the ubiquitous League. What this is we do not know. We know only one fact—that it is to center around the Princess Juliana, her majesty's five-year-old daughter, and heir to the Dutch throne. It may be the plan to proclaim her queen in her mother's place; it may be something more drastic. That is what we have to discover—and we rely on you to do it."

"There is no fear of a coup d'état, for, during the queen's absence, together with her husband, the palace will be guarded by two regiments of loyal troops. What treachery is planned must be consummated by stealth. Your task will be to go to the palace, arriving on the fifth, immediately after her majesty has left. You will remain there until the eighth, one hour before the queen's return. He, of course, knows nothing of this. You will deliver your credentials to Herr Von Grobelaar, the Dutch minister for home affairs, who will be in attendance at the palace; you will take up your quarters there and will

keep the Princess Juliana constantly under your supervision.

"Now, my dear Lane, there is a very unfortunate incident in this affair. The notorious Princess Clothilde, of Austria, who is well known to be connected with the League, has been installed at The Hague for several weeks as the Princess Juliana's music teacher. She has completely won the favor of Queen Wilhelmina, and all representations made to her majesty on this point have been fruitless. When the queen's mind is made up, nothing can shake her. In that respect she is a true Netherlander. And her majesty, unfortunately, has the most complete confidence in the Princess Clothilde. So you will have to regard the princess as an enemy within the gates. Von Grobelaar will doubtless post you on all necessary matters. You can trust him implicitly. Good morning, Mr. Lane. You will report to me here five days hence at the same hour."

The thought of meeting Clothilde again, matching himself against her, sent the blood coursing wildly through Paul's veins. He hurried home, packed his suit-case, and caught the next train for Harwich, whence a fast steamer landed him in Holland on the following morning. That afternoon he reached The Hague and he drove at once to the palace, and was soon in consultation with Von Grobelaar.

"I have received a communication from Lord Tresham," he said. "He has described you thoroughly, both in features and manner, so that I am confident that you are the person whom you represent yourself to be. You will appreciate the necessity of these precautions when I tell you that Holland is facing the greatest crisis in all her checkered history. Its precise nature is still unknown to us, but we know enough to be aware that it centers upon the Princess Juliana, and it will be effected tomorrow evening as soon as the news is telephoned to The Hague that her majesty has ratified the treaty which is now pending with Germany. Your task will be to guard the little princess. You are to act under my orders as the princess's guardian until her majesty returns. In particular, you are to watch scrupulously the Princess Clothilde, who is quite well known to be an agent of the League, and who, unhappily, was placed in charge of the princess's musical tuition by her majesty, in spite of all our representations.

"Come, now," he added, "and I will introduce you to her highness."

With a beating heart Paul followed the old minister along the main corridor of the old-fashioned, rambling palace, until they entered the royal apartments. Sounds of a child practicing scales were heard as soon as the heavy swing doors were opened, and Von Grobelaar led Paul into the music room, where, seated upon a high stool, the royal princess was fingering a small keyboard with her tiny fingers, under the direction of Clothilde, who sat beside her on a straight-backed chair.

The entrance of the two caused an immediate cessation of the lesson. The child princess looked round curiously; the other princess, she of Austria, rose and stood looking at Paul defiantly. "Mr. Lane and I are old acquaintances," murmured Clothilde, inclining her head.

During the remainder of that day the four never left one another. They seemed inspired by mutual distrust. Under other circumstances, it would have seemed comical to Paul for two men and two women to attend laboriously upon the wishes of a child that devoted its pampered day to playing with an enormous collection of toys—bricks, dolls of all kinds—and throwing them aside as it grew tired of each. But to Paul the situation was fraught with ghastly mockery. It was not until the little princess was safely in bed, under the guardianship of the capable nurse, that Paul found himself alone with the two princesses.

"Monsieur, I learn that you have left the League," she said, in a tone of inquiry which startled him.

"I, too, am no longer connected with it," she said. "Monsieur, I, too, was unable to acquiesce in the demands made upon me. So now, you see me here, a revolutionary turned courtier, a humble music teacher to the Princess Juliana."

She was trying to disarm his suspicions; Paul saw that, and though he strove to conceal his knowledge of it, he could see that she knew.

"Monsieur Lane is still suspicious of me," she asked mockingly. She came close to him and stood looking up at him, her arms at her sides, her lips temptingly close. "Monsieur has not repented of the harsh and cruel words he said to me when we met last?"

In another moment he would have caught her in his arms. But just then the door opened and the minister came slowly in. The princess started round, an angry look upon her face; then, recovering her self-possession with amazing swiftness, she burst into laughter.

"I was just telling Monsieur Lane," she said, "that I am a revolutionary turned courtier. I believe that Mon-

sieur suspects me of complicity in the plans of the conspirators."

Schooled as he was in diplomacy, Von Grobelaar could not help starting. This was the first allusion made in the palace, except in his own talk with Paul that morning, to what everyone knew.

"But let me say, Mynheer," went on Clothilde, "that I, for one, hope with all my heart that the German treaty will be ratified, and that tomorrow night we shall hear the good news by telephone. And in proof of my own good intentions, I request that, as soon as the news is verified, Her Highness the Princess Juliana may be permitted to play the Dutch national anthem upon the old state harpsichord in the royal museum."

"Thank you, mademoiselle," said Von Grobelaar coldly. "I am sure that the museum can be placed at your disposal if you desire it."

"Now, I wonder what devilry is afoot," said Von Grobelaar thoughtfully.

"You do not trust her?" asked Paul, shaken with miserable doubt.

Von Grobelaar advanced and placed his hand in a kindly fashion upon the shoulder of the younger man. Perhaps he surmised the true condition of Paul's feelings.

"My boy," he said—"for you are only a boy compared with an old man like myself—I trust few men and no women in matters of state. A man is bound by certain social codes. A woman has no code in such matters."

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## HOME TOWN HELPS

CALLS FOR WORK OF EXPERT

City Once Properly Laid Out, Residents May Be Trusted to Develop and Beautify It.

A movement of the first importance and of great proportions is taking place among American cities, which, while it has not attracted any very marked degree of attention on the part of the general public, is yet one which will have lasting consequences of the most beneficial character, writes author of "American City Planning," "Modern City Planning and Maintenance."

This movement, the replanning of cities, has only begun to take shape in this country in the last few years, but already great progress has been made, and plans of the most elaborate and magnificent character have been proposed.

The subject is one of such importance in the social, aesthetic and practical betterment of cities that it is of vital interest not only to the city administrator, the engineer and the architect, but also to every citizen who has the advancement of his city's welfare at heart.

The work of the expert is to supervise the whole undertaking, to conceive the design and develop the plan; to direct the work of the engineering staff and that of the office as well. He is the directing head of the whole undertaking, and working in harmony with the commission, should have a free hand to develop the best possible plan. In cases where more than one solution of the problem of the city's replanning is practicable, he should submit tentative plans for the further consideration of the commission and the public.

When the work of the expert has been completed a public exhibition should be held of the drawings and the plans and they should be subjected to the criticism of the public at large and discussed in public meetings and in the press.

The commission should then decide upon the plan to be adopted and the work then should be actually undertaken.

### SAVE MONEY FOR TAXPAYERS

English Cities Draw Revenue From Exploitation of Municipal Property or Some Points of Interest.

Norwich, Eng., has converted the Norman keep of her castle into one of the finest museums in the country, and makes it minister in a small way to her rates; while the famous and beautiful Valley Bridge at Scarborough yields a yearly profit of about \$10,000 to the corporation for various town purposes. For a whole century Plymouth has been owner of her Theater Royal, ever since its reconstruction was laid by Mayor Lockyer in 1811, and its lease reduces the rates by considerably over \$5,000 a year.

The ratepayers of Birkenhead owe much relief to the famous ferry across the Mersey to Liverpool. It owns a fleet of many steamers, which, as carriers of goods and passengers, contribute, it is said, something like \$60,000 a year to the municipal exchequer; the contribution to the rates during the last half-century falling little short of half a million pounds. Liverpool makes from \$15,000 to \$20,000 by the annual exhibition of pictures in the Walker Art gallery. Already it is claimed that more than \$5,000,000 has gone to the city funds from this source alone, in addition to the profits made in other directions, such as electricity works and the manufacture of concrete slabs for paving purposes. In fact, Liverpool is credited with making well over \$500,000 a year by its various enterprises.

### Physical City Conferences.

Mankind is every day becoming more cosmopolitan, and perhaps a significant indication of this is to be seen in the number of congresses, both national and international, that have recently been held. In connection with town planning and its allied subjects there have been held this year an international town planning congress at Ghent, an international road congress, an international housing congress, and an international congress of architects, and, in addition, important congresses on housing and town planning both in London and several provincial towns held under the auspices of the National Housing Reform council, an important congress in town planning held under the auspices of the engineers at Norwich, and also a sanitary congress. This national and international handshaking is certainly of the utmost value in coordinating the work of experts.

### Idem Houses for Poorer Classes.

In Huddersfield, England, the borough council has decided to erect 357 houses for the laboring classes. These houses will be erected in different localities, easy of access, and in districts where good light and air as well as good sanitary conditions can be had.

### Equal Suffrage.

Equal suffrage prevails in Mexico to a large extent. The women are not permitted to vote and the men are afraid to—Kansas City Journal.

### Destroying Dangerous Animals.

Many wild animals are destroyed every year in India. The following list is for Bengal in 1912: three wild elephants, 132 tigers, 327 leopards, 26 bears, 18 wolves, 2 hyenas and 1,694 other wild animals, besides 12,674 snakes, and Rs. 13,477 was spent by the government in rewards for their destruction.

### Daily Thought.

We are all born for love. It is the principle of existence and its only end.—Disraeli.



The other princess, she of Austria, rose and stood looking at Paul defiantly.

### HOLD DEER IN REVERENCE

Peculiar Regard for Animal Is Entertained Throughout the Japanese Empire.

From time immemorial deer have been held in reverent regard by the Japanese. Herds are kept in compounds, and the highest respect is paid to the animals. In olden times the shogun gave the people such a strict order to protect the sacred animals that if anyone happened to hurt or

kill them he was put to death on the spot. It was a period of terror.

Even at the present day the deer are so tame and abundant in the shrine grounds that they, in fine weather, stroll round by the streets by twos and threes and surround passers-by, asking for food and sometimes holding their sleeves in their mouths in an affectionate manner.

Once a year some of the deer are caught by means of a net with a handle by several tapers (in service of the Kasuga Shrine Office) and taken

to an enclosure, where their splendid horns are cut off with a saw, while a crowd of spectators watch the work with breathless interest (admission ten sen, equal to about 2 cents). This done, some of the sacred horns are, as a custom, awarded to the spectators by means of lottery.

Makes All the Difference.

Teacher—"Now, David, can you tell me what 'Dr.' stands for?" David (aged seven)—"It depends on whether it is before or after a man's name."

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### HAD TO THINK THINGS OUT

For Once, at Least, Moving of Furniture Proved a Trap for Sleepy Housewife.

A woman who lives in a south side apartment made up her mind the other day it would brighten up the rooms and relieve the monotony if the furniture were shifted around.